

## ATD Employee Learning Week 2022 - Landfill Harmonic

### **Landfill Harmonic** – aka Recycled Orchestra

I was first introduced to the Landfill Harmonic story when I attended a FranklinCovey course. Each time I hear it, something new catches my attention. Every time I see it, it inspires me. Many times, it causes me to well up.

The story of how a community in Paraguay turned trash into musical instruments and created the Landfill Harmonic is amazing at face value.

It can also serve as an opening to discussions about motivation, innovation, community, and the value we place on things and people.

Here is a suggestion for how it could be used to prompt discussions in a work environment during Employee Learning Week. Or, you may have a completely different approach, which is terrific!

1. Share the 60 Minutes video (13 minutes) in a team setting. Use these questions to get the conversation started.
  - a. As you watched, what stood out to you?
  - b. How do we, as a society, assign value to things and people?
    - i. What do we value as a company, division, department, or team?
  - c. What benefits are created by the orchestra?
    - i. For the students?
    - ii. The students' families?
    - iii. The community as a whole?
    - iv. Those outside the community?
  - d. Are we overlooking hidden talents and opportunities within our group?
    - i. Or, challenge the group to start looking for hidden talents, new approaches, and different ways of looking at what they do day in and day out. Ask them to bring their findings to the next meeting.

*Many videos can be found online. Here are a few resources which may be helpful.*

A short (3.5 minute) video overview:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/deceptivecadence/2012/12/19/167539764/the-landfill-harmonic-an-orchestra-built-from-trash>

60 Minutes story (13 minutes) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sOHfxdes1A>

Their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/landfillharmonicmovie>